

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENGR EGEN VE CA

SUBJECT: TRUDEAU VISIT

REF: (A) CARACAS 1425, (B) CARACAS 1451

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR SCHWARZMANN REVIEWED THE VISIT WITH ME AT LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 11. IN ADDITION TO COVERING MATERIAL REPORTED IN THE REFTELS AND REVEALING FURTHER DETAILS ON MADAME TRUDEAU'S MISADVENTURES, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE VENEZUELAN'S QUESTIONED TRUDEAU PERSISTENTLY ON CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND HOW THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN TREATED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONVERSATIONS IN HAVANA. PRESIDENT PEREZ REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES IN THIS CONTEXT TO CANADA'S STATUS AS A SIGNATORY TO THE HELSINKI DECLARATION, APPARENTLY MEANING TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOC SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PUT AN END TO THIS "INTERNATIONAL DISTURBANCE" (REF B). TRUDEAU INSISTED THAT HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO CASTRO HIS DISAPPROVAL OF THE ANGOLAN OPERATION BUT SEEMED TO FIND THE QUESTIONING DIFFICULT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HIS WIFE'S VOCAL ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

(B) PEREZ URGED THAT CANADA JOIN THE OAS AS A FULL MEMBER. IN RESPONSE TO THE FAMILIAR ARGUMENT ABOUT BEING CAUGHT
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BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE LATINS, THE PRESIDENT ASSERTED

THAT THE GOC COULD OBIATE THE PROBLEM THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLEAR AND PREDICTABLE LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. HE CHIDED THE PRIME MINISTER ON CANADA'S APPARENT DISINTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS VISIT WOULD MARK A TURNING POINT. TRUDEAU PROMISED TO HAVE THE OAS ISSUE "RE-VIEWED."

(C) THE DISCUSSION OF CANADA'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH SELA WAS RATHER VAGUE. WHAT PEREZ SEEMED TO HAVE IN MIND WAS A REGULARIZED SYSTEM OF CONSULTATION IN WHICH THE CANADIANS COULD MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN IN ADVANCE OF IMPORTANT SELA MEETINGS AND DECISIONS. SCHWARZMANN'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE VENEZUELANS WERE THINKING OF PERFORMING A KIND OF SPOKESMAN'S ROLE FOR CANADA IN SELA. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HE SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CANADA BECOMING AN OBSERVER IN SELA WAS NEVER RAISED.

(D) THE DISCUSSION ABOUT OIL NEVER WENT BEYOND GENERALITIES. PEREZ RECOGNIZED THE CANADIAN TRADE DEFICIT AND WAS GENEROUS IN HIS PROMISES TO GIVE CANADA GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO SELL HERE-- BUT AGAIN WITHOUT SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. TRUDEAU ASSURED THE VENEZUELANS FOR HIS PART THAT CANADA WOULD CONTINUE AS A MARKET FOR VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM.

2. SCHWARZMANN SAID THE CANADIAN THEME FOR THE VISIT WAS "PARTNERSHIP" IN A NEW AND CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. HE THOUGHT THE GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN LAID, PARTICULARLY BY MEANS OF THE PERSONAL RAPPORT ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE TWO PRINCIPALS. THEY HELD SEVERAL LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS ALONE IN SPANISH. TRUDEAU WAS IMPRESSED BY THE PRESIDENT'S GRASP OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BY THE GOOD SENSE HE DISPLAYED IN TALKING ABOUT THEM. THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY NOTED IN PARTICULAR PEREZ'S MODERATE AND REALISTIC APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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